Greeting! This will be my first legionnaire articles since being elected National Vice Commander 2019. During my term as NVC, I will be visiting all of our departments in the Western area. This includes all thirteen states, Mexico and possibly the Philippines. As you can tell I will be on the road a lot.

With the 100th Nations Convention over and newly elected National Commander Brett Reistad taking the reigns for the 100th year of The American Legion. "Celebrating Our Legacy" is the Commander Reistad’s theme for the year. Commander Rested stated that the Legion’s Centennial Celebration an opportunity to connect its legacy of accomplishments and significance in communities to a vision for the future. That includes a new generation of veterans taking on a greater role in the organization.

WW I centennial stamp: A new U.S. Postal stamp "Turning the Tide" commemorates the WW I centennial. The stamp features a Doughboy holding a U.S. Flag against a backdrop of smoke, barbed wire and biplanes flying overhead. The stamp is now available at post offices nationwide.

Three Legion Centennial coin designs unveiled at National Convention that honor The American Legions 100th anniversary. The coins are scheduled to go on sale in March 2019 before the Legion Birthday. To be added to the main list for updates, visit www.legion.org/coin. The mint will strike and issues 50,000 of the Gold coins, 400,000 of the Silver Dollars and 750,000 of the half dollars. Cost of the coins will come out when closer to the sale date.

Recruit and receive "Membership Excellence Team 100" pin. Team 100 incentive pin is available to any Legion Family member who obtains "THREE" new members into The American Legion. Only one pin will be awarded per individual. The incentive program will end on June 20, 2019.

Department of Alaska membership has been in a steady decline for many years. It’s time for Legionnaires to get out and revisit their recruiting methods.

As you know time waits for no one, and it is not too early to begin thinking about next year’s post elections, encouraging students to participate in the Oratorical Contest, recruiting for Boys and Girls State, and of course beginning to select your nominations for the Legionnaire, Commander, Adjutant, and Educator of the Year. With even a slight forethought you may even find someone in your area who may qualify for the Law Officer and Firefighter of the year. Lots of good things to consider and do!

And, not that we want to put anyone on “front street” but this is the last reminder regarding your officers’ membership… (hint, hint!).

Best wishes to all for a wonderful and safe holiday season – Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to all!!!
THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 2018-2019

Commander..........................Nate Carter........2250 Sentry Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99507
First Vice Commander.........Art Bell..............100 Bun nell Unit 3A, Anchorage, Alaska 99508
Second Vice Commander.......Hunter Davison.....655 Park Ave. Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
Adjunct-Finance Officer ......Clare Sullivan........1550 Charter Circle, Anchorage, Alaska 99508
Service Officer................Fred Richardson.........POB 2934 Palmer, Alaska 99654
Sergeant-At-Arms..............Mike Downs...............3639 Carleton Ave. Anchorage, Alaska 99517
 Chaplain............................Deb Davis............655 Park Ave. Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
 Historian............................Ray Hollenbeck.....1457 N. Pioneer Peak Drive, Wasilla, Alaska 99684
 Judge Advocate..........Ken Jacobus..............310 K Street Ste 200, Anchorage, Alaska 99501
 Executive Committeeman...Don Maupin...............910 W. Edinborough Dr. Palmer, Alaska 99645
 Executive Committeeman.....Kent Winship...........POB 257 Dillingham, Alaska 99708
 Executive Committeeman.....Mark Berg..............7913 Arlene Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99502

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMEN

NEC.............................Steve Huismann........4700 Rivers St. North Pole, Alaska 99705

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER AIDES

Con Miller Post 30.............Jim Scott................1124 Holmes Road, North Pole, Alaska 99705
Susitna Valley Post 35.......Dave Webster..........8266 W. Hollywood Rd, Wasilla, Alaska 99623
Greer H. Plummer Memorial Post 20.....Alvin Diaz..........1112 Walnut Ave., Kenai, AK 99611
Joe Craig Post 3..............Scott Kline.............444 Schoenbar Rd, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
Spenard Post 28..............Mike Hayward..........12021 Seashore Pl., Anchorage, Alaska 99515

From the desk of Ray Hollenbeck, Department Historian

In 1918 John "Jack" Talbot was a young man in World War 1.

In 1920, Jack was a Territorial Officer with the Department of Alaska and lived in Ketchikan, the 2nd largest post in Alaska at that time. At the very first Department Convention held in Juneau April 23rd to the 26th, Jack was sworn in as the first 2nd Vice Commander of the American Legion, Department of Alaska.

The Territory of Alaska had 11 posts; Jack Henry Post 1, Anchorage, Alaska
Valdez Post 2, Valdez, Alaska
Ketchikan Post 3, Ketchikan, Alaska
Alford John Bradford Post 4, Juneau, Alaska
Isaac Evans Post 5, Seward, Alaska
Merlin Elmer Palmer Post 6, Wrangell, Alaska
John T. Bossi Post 7, Ft. Liscum, Alaska
John W. Jones Post 8, Cordova, Alaska
Nome Post 9, Nome, Alaska
Davidson Post 10, Haines, Alaska
Dorman H. Baker Post 11, Fairbanks, Alaska

ORATORICAL NEWS with Jan Scott

The High School Oratorical Scholarship Program “A Constitutional Speech Contest” is a fantastic opportunity for students to earn scholarship money regardless of grades point average. At the Department level all contestants receive scholarship money regardless of placement at the contest.

Each Post holds their own contest using the general rules and is able to send more than one top contestant to the Department level. The purpose of this delivery is to ensure that the student is prepared to compete at Department Level. Every post varies in the amount it awards to the participants. At the post level the high school contestant should deliver an 8 to 10 minute long prepared oration on any part or history of the Constitution of the United States, giving emphasis to the duties and obligations of a citizen to her/his government. Some post also require the assigned topic be used. There is flexibility at the post level. If you have any question about the post level contest and what is acceptable please contact me.

Every Department level contest is held to the standards of the National level. Every year all Department chairmen return to the American Legion Full Conference held in Indianapolis to make that California, Arkansas, New York and all Department contest including Alaska holds their Department Contest using the same rules as National Contest.

A way to increase interest is to invite your Auxiliary unit, SAL and Legion riders to seek out students to participate. This is truly an American Legion Family Program that will benefit every participant. Encourage all Legion members to look for participants not only in the public schools, including Debate, English and History teachers. Also remembering to contact the home schoolers, Christian schools, 4-H, Boys and Girls Scout groups in your community.
American Legion Auxiliary Alaska Girls State by Director Yvonne Lam\m

It is that time of the year again. Are you all ready for the American Legion Auxiliary Alaska Girls State recruiting season? Well, the time is upon us and we all need to get out there and let everyone know that now is the time to sign up for this fantastic program.

There are so many new things coming up for the ALA Alaska Girls State. For starters we are using Google Docs for our applications and Registration. It is time to get those flyers into the schools. Students are already making summer plans. Flyers and information about the 2019 session of American Legion Auxiliary Alaska Girls State are available online at www.alaska legionauxiliary.org.

The goal for the upcoming year is 40 girls from all over the state. Get out and recruit for the 2019 session that will be held from June 1-7, 2009. Interviews should be scheduled for February and March. Registration will start in April and end on May 5, 2019. ALA Alaska Girls State Fund raisers are a great way to generate funds to sponsor students for this program.

Contact the young women you sponsored last year and have them recruit for you - they are absolutely the best advertisers we have. Word of mouth gives our program the best credibility and has the strongest chance of recruiting the most participants. ALA Alaska Girls State Alumni are our greatest assets.

Don't forget to let potential participants know that there are 5 scholarships available and given every year. This is a huge selling point; many students are looking for programs that offer scholarships. Please reiterate to every potential participant that this program is a week of intense government training. It is hard work and a grueling schedule, but if they are willing to put in the effort, it is well worth it in the end. So much to do and so little time to do it. Let's work together and get the information out there.

On the Road with the ALR
By Bobby Dunno, Director

It seems that every year we reach the point where we look back and cannot believe that summer is coming to a close, for those of us who enjoy feeling the wind rolling over our windscreen we ask the question “how can the riding season be ending already”? I suppose that the fact that I spent 6 weeks down south in our motor home having too much fun is a reason I missed most of the riding season. But regardless I am bummed that I will soon be putting the ride up for the next few months.

If you have not heard or read about it yet the ALR Alaska donated more than $9000.00 to the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund, while nationwide $1,256,930.34 was raised to further the education of dependents of veterans killed or disabled since the attach on 9/11. As I stated in the last newsletter and will say at the Fall Conference being held at Post 35 on the 20th of October is that the Legacy Scholarship Fund is not an American Legion Riders only fund but an American Legion Scholarship Fund and everyone Post should seek to donate toward the future of the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. So I would challenge not just the Post with Rider Chapters but each Post in the Department of Alaska to donate $100.00 to the fund. I have been lead to believe that if we were to get 100% of the Post to donate our department will be the first to have achieved 100% participation. I think that is a nice goal to set.

On 16 September the riders of the ALRA escorted the remains of veteran Louis Strutz a Veteran and American Legion member, from Homer to Anchorage for internment at the National Cemetery on JBER. Dan Cole from Chapter 16 did an excellent job of coordinating the ride and had riders joining all along the route. We started off with just 6 riders and ended up with nearly 30 bikes rolling into Anchorage, it was awesome. The Legion Riders in Anchorage are seemingly performing these escort duties on a weekly basis. It is a pause for thought that so many of our veterans from WW2 and Korean Conflict are passing on and taking with them so much of our nation’s history. Such missions are always a somber occasion and yet it is a great honor to participate paying respect to those who have given the last full measure or passed on to Post Everlasting.

I hope the upcoming winter season finds everyone involved on the maintenance projects they need to get done on their bikes making them dependable and safe for next summer. Now is the time to get those brakes done, tires changed, throw in that new set of plugs, clutch and brake cables get lubed and leaks fixed. Include all the other things that bugged you about your bike’s ride and performance last summer. If you are like me you are already talking about what cool items for the bikes we are buying ourselves for Christmas! Get it done so when spring does get here we can Get On Our Bikes and Ride!

For God and Country

From the desk of Fred Richardson, Dept. Service Officer

You would never know that a little over half of the people you meet have experienced serious trauma. For most, trauma does not significantly impact their ability to go about their lives. For others, trauma becomes a broken radio endlessly replaying the same tune in their minds.

While not all people who develop PTSD are Veterans, a lot of them are. Currently, around 15% of post 9/11 era Veterans have PTSD. This newest generation of Veterans has a unique need to find resources and care at the click of a button and VA is evolving to meet those needs.

VA recognizes that PTSD is not a one-size-fits-all disease. Trauma isn't isolated to one event or one experience. Nightmares and flashbacks are not the only way PTSD might manifest. Most importantly, weakness has nothing to do with who develops PTSD and who reaches out for help. To ensure no Veteran is left behind, VA is continuously adding innovative resources and technology to provide accessible care for Veterans who live with PTSD. All of these tools are just a keystroke or click away.

The National Center for PTSD website (http://www.pspd.va.gov/) includes information to help Veterans understand PTSD and PTSD treatment (https://www.pspd.va.gov/public/understanding_ptsd/booklet.pdf). The PTSD Treatment Decision Aid (https://www.pspd.va.gov/apps/Decisionaid/) is an interactive tool for Veterans to learn about PTSD treatment and make informed decisions about their care. AboutFace (https://www.pspd.va.gov/apps/AboutFace/) is a repository of videos where Veterans, family members and clinicians share their experience with PTSD and PTSD treatment. Telehealth (https://www.telehealth.va.gov/) services have been expanded for mental health appointments. PTSD Awareness Month (https://www.pspd.va.gov/about/ptst-awareness/index.asp) occurs every June and VA has extensive educational tools available for anyone and everyone to learn about PTSD. There are also multiple mobile apps (https://www.pspd.va.gov/public/materials/apps/index.asp) to help coach Veterans through self-help, obstacles and treatment.

It might seem like only a small number of Veterans develop PTSD. One Veteran going without the critical resources and care to help them cope with PTSD is one too many. It’s VA’s mission to modernize to meet the needs of every Veteran. With all the resources Veterans now have at their fingertips, trauma and PTSD no longer have control of the radio.
News from the 2nd Vice, Hunter Davis

Americanism and You
I extend my thanks to all who contributed to the Department of Alaska Hospitality Room at the National Convention in Minneapolis. Special thanks to Sgt-at-Arms Mike Downs for the challenging job of Doorman. Mike Calhoon of Post 5 and NEC Steve Huisman were key at getting supplies in before I arrived on Friday. Mark Berg stepped in as bartender several nights and all the Legion Riders volunteered at some point. The silent auction and ticket auction went well and we came out below budget.

Post 3 was asked to present a Flag Class for third grade students last week. We have presented our Flag Class there every year, but this year we observed a much higher level of interest and knowledge. The youngsters were very switched on, asking and answering some fairly advanced questions. There was broad involvement and the teachers commented that the word is out to look forward to the class. We, as a Post, have worked out a lesson plan that takes about twenty minutes to present, followed by ten minutes of flag folding. We then review the class, ask some flag related questions, and then the real fun begins...we ask them if they have any questions about the services or war or family history. The upshot of the veterans question is that we should all make sure that our kids, children or adults, know what we have done. The youngsters in this class had a good grasp of what Mom or Dad had done in the Gulf or the current wars, and several remarked on Grandpa in Vietnam. All and all, it was a good class. The bonus was the school had a new flag halyard on the flagpole and we all went out to raise the flag. Three Post members represented the Post, including a member who had just been accepted at the previous night's membership meeting.

The Post also presented the school with a new 5'x8' flag, as several of the class pointed out that the old one was not only the wrong size, it was tattered on the fly side. Good eye and indicative of how the class was already bearing fruit.

For God and Country,

TAPS

GU-01
Thomas Soplo-Vietnam
Post 3
Daniel Ball-Vietnam
Post 12
Thomas Quinlan-WWII
Richard Woods-Vietnam
Roy Lawrence-Korea
Post 16
George Meeker-WWII
Lloyd Strutz-WWII
POST 17
Peter Holterling-Vietnam
Post 18
William Parker-Gulf War
Post 20
Jack Leggett-Korea
Harold Cockroft-Korea
Post 21
Ellen White-WWII
Post 26
Larry Lemons-Vietnam
Post 28
Michael Pruitt-Vietnam
George Stark-WWII
Post 29
Henry Dunbar-Vietnam
Isaac Nutt-Vietnam
Post 30
Dennis Abbl-WWII
Post 33
Arthur Ferreira-Vietnam
John Firzgerald
William Braddy
Marvin Morrisett-WWII
Post 35
Freedon Starnberry-Vietnam
Post 57
Billy Malleck-Vietnam
James Crab-Vietnam
Post 6
Lois Hope-Korea
Mike Hay-Korea

One of the highlights of the 100th American Legion National Convention, was listening to former Minnesota Vikings coach Bud Grant give a commentary at the Commander's dinner. His topic was heroes. He said "Stars entertain us-Heroes define us."

Bud said he was fortunate enough by his definition, to know 3 men who defined the word hero for him. All 3 joined the military during WWII as young men out of high school. Tom, a football friend from high school who enlisted as a Marine and was killed at Tarawa. Richard Bong, Medal of Honor recipient, one of our most decorated American fighter pilots. He was killed after the was a test pilot for the military. And Check Bednarak who was a B-24 waist gunner with over 30 combat missions (and awarded the Air Medal with 4 Oak Leaf cluster among other awards) but was better known at home after the war playing professional football with the Philadelphia Eagles "the greatest center of all time", and Hall of Fame inductee.

They were heroes to Bud because of the quality of their military service not their post war activities (which were considerable for both). It was a reminder to me that words matter...calling outstanding sports figures heroes is a disservice to those who "wrote the blank check" for their country. And, of course, not only service members can be called heroes. They are heroes among us everywhere and let us be sure to know the difference between a "star" and a "hero". Choose our words wisely.

For God and Country

From Deb Davis, Department Chaplain

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For God and Country

From Deb Davis, Department Chaplain

Provisioning Blood and Blood Products to All Military Medical Facilities in Alaska, Free, for Over 56 Years.

To learn more, go to: www.bloodbankofalaska.org

Dates to Remember

11/4 Daylights Savings Ends
11/11 Veterans Day
11/22 Thanksgiving
12/3 Hanukkah
12/7 Pearl Harbor Day
12/25 CHRISTMAS
12/31 New Year's Day
Happenings at your Post

Jack Henry Post 1
- Monday - Homemade Pizza 5:00-7:30
- Tuesday - Cribbage 4:30
- Wednesday - Tacos 5:30-7:00
- Thursday - Burgers & Brew 5:30-7:00
- Friday - Steaks 5:30 - 7:30
- Saturday - L.O.L. Drawing 3:3

Taco Tuesday
- Friday Night Steaks
- Food Served most nights at Post

Wraywell Post 6
- MARCH
  - 3/6 & 3/20 - Taco Tuesday 5pm
  - $1 Tacos - $3 Frybread - $5 Indian Tacos
  - Family Games, Pull Tabs, Raffles

APRIL
  - 4/3 & 4/17 Taco Tuesday 5pm
  - $1 Tacos - $3 Frybread - $5 Indian Tacos
  - Family Games, Pull Tabs - 50-50 Raffle

Matanuska Valley Post 15
- Taco Monday
- Tuesday Pool League
- Wednesday Dart League/NHL Hockey
- Friday Steak Night

General Buckner Post 16 Family
- 2nd Saturday Auxiliary Dinner 6 pm
- Friday Burger & Brew - 6 - 8 pm
- 1st Friday of the month Special
- 3rd Friday Steak Night 6 pm

George H. Plumley Memorial Post 20
- Sunday Breakfast 10am - 1pm
- Every Friday is Steak Night 6-8 pm with an added Special Dish
- Every Sunday Breakfast Menu Dishes 10am - 1pm
- Every Thursday Aux Unit 20 Sponsors
- The Friday Night Raffle 12 pm - 8 pm
- Membership drawing (no sign ups)
- Every Sunday must be present 2 pm

Sponsor Post 28
- Monday Panini Bar and Karaoke 4-8 pm
- Tuesday, Taco night 6 pm
- Wednesday Chicken Wings, etc. 6 pm
- Thursday, Bald eagle spa--all the fixing 6 pm
- Friday Steak Night and Karaoke 6-8:30 pm
- Saturday, Karaoke 8 pm
- Sunday, Make your own ~ Grilled Cheese 10-2 pm

Maddison Post 29
- Tuesdays, Taco night 6pm - 8:30pm
- Wednesday Night Dinners 6pm - 8:30pm
- Carfish, Chicken Wings, Pork chops
- Friday Night Steak Night 6:00pm - 8:30pm

Chappie James Post 34
- Commanders night starting at 6:30pm every Thursday
- Susitna Valley Post 35
- Open Daily @1:00pm
- Meeting Nights: Legion: 1st and 3rd Tuesday 7:00pm
- Auxiliary: 1st Thursday 7:00pm
- Sons: 1st and 3rd Monday 7:30pm
- Riders: 1st Saturday 6:00pm
- Wednesday: Taco Night 6:00pm - 8:00pm Texas Hold’em 7pm - ?
- Friday Night Steak Night 6:00pm - 8:00pm
- Senior Appreciation Dance: Last Thursday of Every Month 2pm - 4pm

C.R. Huber Post 57
- Sunday Breakfast 10-2
- FOOTBALL & NASCAR Every Sunday
- Monday morning Football
- Thursday Burger Night 5:30:9:00 PM

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NEC NEWS with STEVE

By Steve Huisman, NEC

WELL IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I HAVE WRITTEN ONE OF THESE ARTICLES, SO I GUESS I BETTER START WITH A THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU THAT SUPPORTED ME FOR THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN. I DID NOT OFFICALLY TAKE THE OFFICE UNTIL AFTER THE NATIONAL CONVENTION CONVENED ALTHOUGH THERE WAS A LOT PAPERWORK INVOLVED BEFORE THAT. I ALSO ATTENDED THE SPRING MEETINGS IN INDIANAPOLIS AND SAW A LOT OF RESOLUTIONS PASSED. ONE OF WHICH REALLY DISTURBED ME WAS THE CANCELLATION OF POST CHARTERS THE RESEARCH DONE ON EACH POST PRIOR TO ANY RECOMMENDATION TO SEE WHETHER THESE POSTS COULD BE REVITALIZED IS BASED ON THE CRITERIA OF COMMUNITY SIZE, AND VETERAN POPULATION. THE TOTAL OF THE CANCELLATIONS BY BOTH THE FALL 2017 AND SPRING 2018 MEETINGS WAS ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY (150) POSTS. THANKFULLY NONE OF THEM WERE IN ALASKA. THE REASON I BRING THIS UP IS THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN MEMBERSHIP DROPS AND OUR VOICE IN CONGRESS GETS SMALLER. I KNOW THAT MANY OF YOU GET TIRED OF HEARING ABOUT MEMBERSHIP, BUT I WANT ED YOU TO KNOW WHAT FALLING MEMBERSHIP RESULTS IN.

AT THE NATIONAL CONVENTION BRET B. REISER OF VIRGINIA WAS INSTALLED AS THE NEW NATIONAL COMMANDER. AND OUR OWN JIM PISA WAS SELECTED AS THE WESTERN DISTRICT VICE COMMANDER, SO WHEN YOU SEE JIM CONGRATULATE HIM AND GIVE HIM A PAT ON THE BACK AS HE WILL BE DOING A LOT OF TRAVELING IN HIS NEW POSITION.

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Boys State by Director, Kevin Collier

The American Legion Alaska Boys State is an objective citizenship training program which includes individual responsibility to the community, state and nation. The American Legion Alaska Boys State is easily classified as a Leadership Action Program where High School juniors participate in a practical government course designed to develop in the young citizens a working knowledge of the structure of government and to impress upon them the fact that their government is JUST WHAT THEY MAKE IT.

It is our goal that each young man attending American Legion Alaska Boys State sessions will return to his community a better citizen. Part of our goal is that this experience will have stimulated in him a desire to become an active citizen and leader to make contributions which will help to make his community a better place in which to live. To incite in these young citizens a determination to maintain our form of government. To develop in these young men a full understanding of our American traditions and a belief in the United States of America.

The American Legion Alaska Boys State is not a recreational camp but a leadership training camp. The American Legion Alaska Boys State Program is open to qualified male High School Juniors (those who will be seniors during the 2019-2020 school year) and are at least 16 years of age.

We are asking all American Legion posts consult with area high school principals/guidance counselors and ask them to recommend a group of boys as possible candidates. The American Legion Post Committees interview each candidate and select those best qualified. Please note that you can send as many as many that are qualified, there are no limits. Remember this is an investment in the future of your Community, the State and quite possibly the Nation. With your help our American Legion Alaska Boys State Program will continue to grow and be successful!

The American Legion Alaska Boy’s State Counseling staff is comprised of American Legion members, Sons of the American Legion members, and former American Legion Alaska Boy’s State members many of whom have been with the program for a number of years. Their services have contributed much to the success of this program. We are always looking for volunteers to help, or if you are unable to volunteer we are also looking for any donation to help sponsor students where there is no American Legion Post.

This will be our 53rd Annual American Legion Alaska Boys State Program and it will be held starting at 5:30pm on Sunday June 9th, 2019 through Saturday June 15th, 2019. This year’s program will be held at All Elks Camp near Sutton. The tuition remains $300 per student.

If you have any question please call 907-317-8029 or kcollier@alaska.net
Yours in Service for God and Country

Year. God Bless each and every one of you. May all your dreams and wishes come true throughout the ensuing year!

On behalf of the Detachment Officers and myself, I would like to wish you a very Joyous and Merry Christmas/Holiday Season and a Happy New

throughout our Communities, our State and the Nation. All this information of what we do as a Family helps maintain our nonprofit status.

is combined with that of all of the other Squadrons and reported to The American Legion to show what we as Sons of The American Legion have done
tailed on what you actually accomplished throughout the year. The information that you enter on the "Consolidated Squadron Report Form"
returned checks or bank statements for the donations so that next year's Consolidated Report Form is easier to fill out and perhaps more de

important document your Squadron can complete. We only had 6 of the 19 active Squadrons fill out this report.

and record of everything that you do so it can entered on the Consolidated Squadron Report Form by Detachment Convention. This is perhaps the most

National to your Squadron.

mander, Dave Dieckgraeff and myself in having points of contact at your Squadron so we may arrange official visits or send important information from

at least 5 new Squadrons.

Sons of The American Legion - National Commander Greg "Doc" Gibbs has asked every Detachment to work on what is still being called the "TEAM 100"! Let's get our and aim for the 100% Membership goal and 100% Renewal Rate and bring the membership home to our American Legion Family! Sons of The American Legion, National Commander Gregg "Doc" Gibbs is asking everyone to sign up 3 American Heroes (our veterans) into The American Legion - then sign up the rest of their family into our American Legion Family! Remember it's Cool to be Dual!!

Who will be our Top Recruiter for the 2019 Membership Year??

We all need to work on being a top recruiter. This will assist, as we will succeed in reaching all our goals and the 105% challenge that Detachment Com-
mander Dave Dieckgraeff has posted. Currently we have a membership of 1,386 out of our goal of 1,456, or 95.2% for the 2018 membership year. We
still have till December 31st to achieve out 100%. The Detachment as a whole has 294 members transmitted out of our year-end goal of 1403 (so far). This is equivalent to 20.9% of our goal. Remember that membership is everyone's responsibility! Keep up the great job in membership and let's reach our goals all this year.

The challenge for you is to send in a transmittal with as many members as possible prior to the 35% goal in November 15th and the 45% goal in December 12th. We need your cards into Detachment Headquarters 1 week prior to the Target Dates in order to get them processed at National in time to count as reaching the goal.

Sons of The American Legion National Commander Greg "Doc" Gibbs has asked every Detachment to work on what is still being called the "Triple Nickel" - to push membership to remain at least 85% of their current members, reach 105% by National Convention next year (2019) and charter at least 5 new Squadrons.

If you have not taken the opportunity to turn in your Certification of Officers, please so as soon as possible. This helps the Detachment Com-
mander, Dave Dieckgraeff and myself in having points of contact at your Squadron so we may arrange official visits or send important information from the Detachment and from National to your Squadron.

Again this year we will have a Consolidated Squadron Report Form, there will be some changes on the form from last year and will be coming out somewhere around February or March. As soon as I receive them I will be sending them out to the Squadrons. In the mean time remember to keep track and record of everything that you do so you can entered on the Consolidated Squadron Report Form by Detachment Convention. This is perhaps the most important document your Squadron can complete. We only had 6 of the 19 active Squadrons fill out this report.

As we start out a new year remember to gather all of the information from the appropriate sources such as from your membership for hours, returned checks or bank statements for the donations so that next year’s Consolidated Report Form is easier to fill out and perhaps more de-
tailed on what you actually accomplished throughout the year. The information that you enter on the "Consolidated Squadron Report Form" is combined with that of all of the other Squadrons and reported to The American Legion to show what we at Sons of The American Legion have done and accomplished throughout the year. The American Legion subsequently sends this on to Congress to what the American Legion Family has done throughout our Communities, our State and the Nation. All this information of what we do as a Family helps maintain our nonprofit status.

On behalf of the Detachment Officers and myself, I would like to wish you a very Joyous and Merry Christmas/Holiday Season and a Happy New Year. God Bless each and every one of you May all your dreams and wishes come true throughout the ensuing year!

Yours in Service for God and Country

From the Administrative Assistant:

It has come to my attention that members are not receiving email notices. Many members have more then one email on my data base. If you have a certain email address you wish to me use, you must notify me. Otherwise all emails are sent to the first address that "POPS" up.

THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Winter is on its way. Hope all is well.
Thank you again for all the thoughts and prayers over the past few months. It has really paid off. I am told that I CANCER FREE!!!

We enjoyed our visitations to Kodiak and Post 34. Both Posts are doing a lot of good things. I was very impresses by Kodiak feeding 100-1500 people on the 4th of July. Great Job!

Don't forget about October 20th in Wasilla for the workshop. Hopefully we will learn a lot. The SAL will meet at the AM-VETS.

As a department, we are only at 21% membership. Nine squadrons have not turned any in. Please work on membership. Last year we were at 95.2% and our target for this year is 100%

The leaves are turning and the days are getting shorter. It's time to help you Post get ready for winter.

See you around the Post.
Thank you very much.

S.A.L. NEWS by Kevin Collier, Adjutant

Election Day is November 6, 2018 this year. Be sure to fulfil your obligation and responsibility as a United State citizen and vote.

Did you know that since 1792 - Election Day in the United States is the day set by law for the election of public officials? It occurs on the Tuesday after the first Monday of November. The earliest possible date is November 8.

Remember November 11th we all need to stop and pay tribute to our Veterans by celebrating our freedom and the men and women who fought for our country. Without the sacrifices of our veterans this country would not be the great Nation that it is. They have given of themselves so that we all may live in peace and enjoy all the rights and privilege we have being an American Citizen. All veterans gave something of themselves; some even gave all to ensure our blessings of life, liberty, freedom and the pursuit of happiness. Take a moment out of your day to say "Thank You!!" to our veterans.

Most of the Post will be giving out Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday Baskets. If you get the opportunity to deliver one of these to a needy family it will not only melt your heart but give you even more reason to be thankful for all your many blessing, of health, family and friends.

Please remember to be sure to take the time to count your many blessings even those that we usually take for granted, for there is always someone with far less. Please visit the Domiciliary as they do the Christmas gift-wrap on Saturday December 1st at 10:00am. The Veterans that are staying there are given the opportunity to send gifts to their loved ones, some they have not seen or been in contact with for several years.

The National Membership Goal is 400,000 members. The National Membership theme this year is "TEAM 100"! Let's get our and aim for the 100% Membership goal and 100% Renewal Rate and bring the membership home to our American Legion Family! Sons of The American Legion, National Commander Gregg "Doc" Gibbs is asking everyone to sign up 3 American Heroes (our veterans) into The American Legion - then sign up the rest of their family into our American Legion Family! Remember it's Cool to be Dual!!!

Who will be our Top Recruiter for the 2019 Membership Year??

We all need to work on being a top recruiter. This will assist, as we will succeed in reaching all our goals and the 105% challenge that Detachment Com-
mander Dave Dieckgraeff has posted. Currently we have a membership of 1,386 out of our goal of 1,456, or 95.2% for the 2018 membership year. We
still have till December 31st to achieve out 100%. The Detachment as a whole has 294 members transmitted out of our year-end goal of 1403 (so far). This is equivalent to 20.9% of our goal. Remember that membership is everyone's responsibility! Keep up the great job in membership and let's reach our goals all this year.

The challenge for you is to send in a transmittal with as many members as possible prior to the 35% goal in November 15th and the 45% goal in December 12th. We need your cards into Detachment Headquarters 1 week prior to the Target Dates in order to get them processed at National in time to count as reaching the goal.

Sons of The American Legion National Commander Gregg "Doc" Gibbs has asked every Detachment to work on what is still being called the "Triple Nickel" - to push membership to remain at least 85% of their current members, reach 105% by National Convention next year (2019) and charter at least 5 new Squadrons.

If you have not taken the opportunity to turn in your Certification of Officers, please so as soon as possible. This helps the Detachment Com-
mander, Dave Dieckgraeff and myself in having points of contact at your Squadron so we may arrange official visits or send important information from the Detachment and from National to your Squadron.

Again this year we will have a Consolidated Squadron Report Form, there will be some changes on the form from last year and will be coming out somewhere around February or March. As soon as I receive them I will be sending them out to the Squadrons. In the mean time remember to keep track and record of everything that you do so you can entered on the Consolidated Squadron Report Form by Detachment Convention. This is perhaps the most important document your Squadron can complete. We only had 6 of the 19 active Squadrons fill out this report.

As we start out a new year remember to gather all of the information from the appropriate sources such as from your membership for hours, returned checks or bank statements for the donations so that next year’s Consolidated Report Form is easier to fill out and perhaps more de-
tailed on what you actually accomplished throughout the year. The information that you enter on the "Consolidated Squadron Report Form" is combined with that of all of the other Squadrons and reported to The American Legion to show what we at Sons of The American Legion have done and accomplished throughout the year. The American Legion subsequently sends this on to Congress to what the American Legion Family has done throughout our Communities, our State and the Nation. All this information of what we do as a Family helps maintain our nonprofit status.

On behalf of the Detachment Officers and myself, I would like to wish you a very Joyous and Merry Christmas/Holiday Season and a Happy New Year. God Bless each and every one of you May all your dreams and wishes come true throughout the ensuing year!

Yours in Service for God and Country

From the Administrative Assistant:

It has come to my attention that members are not receiving email notices. Many members have more than one email on my data base. If you have a certain email address you wish me to use, you must notify me. Otherwise all emails are sent to the first address that "POPS" up.
AUXILIARY NEWS

Happy Fall Everyone:
As my first official unit visitations began I was inspired to continue this year visiting as many units as possible. It is important to me to make sure our Auxiliary members know how important their contribution to our mission is, whether it is holding an officer position, running a chairmanship, donating to a bake sale or even just renewing their membership each year, every effort helps.

I am so proud of the ladies that have stepped up to be American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) program chairman this year. It is refreshing and invigorating to see the energy and enthusiasm they have to work their programs and pass that same enthusiasm on to each unit. Thank you to all of you for your dedication and hard work.

It is vital to keep our members engaged in our mission. As leaders in our units and communities we have to be mentors. We have to continue to teach our Juniors and new members what the American Legion Auxiliary is and why we matter. Everyone joined the ALA for a reason and most likely it was to belong to a meaningful organization that believes in "Service not Self".

We must also think of the future of our Units - who is going to carry on when our current leadership steps down. Are we training our members about the ALA programs? Are we allowing our newer members to voice their opinions and asking them to chair events without micro-managing? We are only hurting ourselves and our units if that is not the case. In this day and "that is how we've always done it" or "we tried that, it didn't work" are not valid reasons for not allowing someone else with the drive and enthusiasm to try something new or processes if they want to try. A person once stated that out programs are outdated. I disagree our programs are not outdated, they are the core and tradition of the American Legion Auxiliary. It is our approach in how we work the programs that need to be refreshed. Either think outside the box or make the box shiny, pretty and new again.

For God and Country.

From the desk of President, Debbie

Fall (maybe winter) has come to our great state. By the time this article comes out our Fall Workshop will be over and done. This year we held our Fall Workshop at the Dillingham Area Recreation Center. It was a great success and we had over 100 people in attendance.

Thank you to the American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, The Sons of the American Legion and the Legion Riders for being a part of the event. The Fall Workshop was a great success with participation by representative from folks are amazing and we truly appreciate your work.

There was a joint session in the morning with The American Legion. The American Legion Auxiliary, The Sons of the American Legion and the Legion Riders. This was followed with a presentation by the Warriors Hockey which consists of players who are veterans. The group then split into their individual groups.

Auxiliary members were presented with information regarding program action plans, ALA academy, membership, Children and Youth, 100th Anniversary activities, the 5 year Centennial Plan, and the National President's Award of Excellence. The first day ended with a visit to the Alaska Veterans and Pioneer Home Junior members were also part of the activities for a day. Thanks to Amy Bell for taking on their activities for the day.

INFORMATION FROM UNITS

Merlin Elmer Palmer Unit 6 (Wrangell) is preparing for many events in the next two months. They have an ongoing rummage sale at MooseLaneous. It is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday until 4:00 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday when the OPEN sign is on! There is a bazaar and Flea Market from 10:00 to 2:00 p.m. They are hosting a Veteran's Day Dinner on November 11th at 5:00 p.m. featuring prime rib or spiral ham with green salad. Veterans and one guest is free. All others must have a ticket which costs $10. Seating is limited. The Children’s Christmas Party will be held on December 15th for children ages 12 and younger with each child receiving a gift. There will be a morning and afternoon session. On December 17th Unit 6 will be putting together and delivering trays of cookies, candy and cheese bites rotating through their list of Veteran’s in the community. There will be 50/50 Auxiliary Raffles in November and December with tickets at $1.00 per ticket.

Peter Heyano Unit 442 (Dillingham) shared the following upcoming activities for November and December. They will be attending the Veterans Day Presentation which the school hosts and will be registering Veterans and educating them about what the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary have to offer. For both Veteran’s Day and American Legion Auxiliary, there will be public service announcements on the radio to educate the public. Peter Heyano Unit 442 is anticipating a coloring contest at the elementary school for Veteran’s Day if approved at the Unit meeting in October. In December they will have a recruitment table at the Holiday Bazaar. They will also be holding a Christmas Party for Veteran’s and their families.

Membership Today and Everyday by Yvonne Lamm

Membership often seems to be a daunting task. So many questions: Can we get the numbers that we need? How do we get people to join? What do we do? How do we sell it?

I believe we are making this task harder than it needs to be. Let's all start by taking a deep breath, step back for a moment and reflect on why we became members. Next, take another moment and think about why we stay members. Now, with those two things in mind, is it really that hard of a sell? I think not. I think The American Legion Auxiliary can sell itself if we can just let people see what we do.

It is vital to keep our members engaged in our mission. As leaders in our units and communities we have to be mentors. We have to continue to teach our Juniors and new members what the American Legion Auxiliary is and why we matter. Everyone joined the ALA for a reason and most likely it was to belong to a meaningful organization that believes in “Service not Self”.

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For God and Country.

From the desk of Secretary, Barb Nath

Membership is the lifeline of this organization. Without the members there is no American Legion Auxiliary. Dare to be unique, dare to be YOU! The American Legion Auxiliary is made up of so many individuals and together we change lives on a daily basis.

"YOU DO YOU, I’LL DO ME and together WE WILL DO US!"